

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a first predefined period ~~in which without the physical presence causing the auxiliary control maintains a current state~~ to be activated;

in a first context, displaying a first display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the first display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control in the first context; and

in a second context different from the first context, displaying a second display widget on the display screen responsive to said detecting, the second display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control in the second context.

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (previously presented): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period ~~in which without the physical presence causing the auxiliary control maintains a current state~~ to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, the status information identifying at least one of track name, track time remaining, track length, album title and album length in a multimedia application.

Claim 8 (original): The method according to claim 7, wherein said step of displaying further includes displaying a multimedia control panel.

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): In a computer system having a first auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the first auxiliary control for a predefined period ~~in which~~ without the physical presence causing the first auxiliary control ~~maintains a current state~~ to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the first auxiliary control; and

changing the status information in the display widget responsive to a second auxiliary control other than the first auxiliary control.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method according to claim 10, wherein the first auxiliary control is a headset or a microphone.

Claim 12 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period ~~in which~~ without the physical presence causing the auxiliary control ~~maintains a current state~~ to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control,

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of placing an identified application in the foreground of the display screen, responsive to a user's selection of the application using the auxiliary control.

Claim 14 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period in which without the physical presence causing the auxiliary control maintains a current state to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, the status information including a task bar.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

detecting absence of the physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a second predefined period in which the auxiliary control has not been activated while displaying the first display widget in the first context; and

discontinuing display of the first display widget, responsive to detecting the absence of the physical presence.

Claims 16-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the auxiliary control is one of a button or a key.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the physical presence is a hand of a user.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claim 21 (previously presented): In a computer system including an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a first predefined period ~~in which without the physical presence causing the auxiliary control maintains a current state~~ to be activated;

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control;

detecting absence of the physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a second predefined period while displaying the display widget;

determining if a pointer is located within the display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting; and

discontinuing display of the display widget when the pointer is not located within the display widget.

Claims 22-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended): In a computer system including an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period ~~in which without the physical presence causing the auxiliary control maintains a current state~~ to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, the status information identified only applying to a single active application.

Claim 27 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period ~~in which without the physical presence causing the auxiliary control maintains a current state~~ to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein ~~the a~~

type of status information associated with the auxiliary control displayed when a first application is active is different from ~~the~~ a type of status information associated with the auxiliary control displayed when a second application is active.

Claim 28 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period ~~in which without the physical presence causing the auxiliary control maintains a current state~~ to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the status information is messaging related information.

Claim 29 (original): The method according to claim 28, wherein the status information includes one of the number of new or unread regular or high priority messages, an in box window, brief information regarding at least one of the most recently received messages, and alert status.

Claim 30 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period ~~in which without the physical presence causing the auxiliary control maintains a current state~~ to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein when a web browser is an active application, the status information includes at least one of the most recently used searches, at least one of the most recently obtained search results, identification of previous and next web pages which may be visited, list of favorite web pages, and current page loading information.

Claims 31-32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period ~~in which~~ without the physical presence causing the auxiliary control ~~maintains a current state~~ to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the status information provides printer status information.

Claim 34 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period ~~in which~~ without the physical presence causing the auxiliary control ~~maintains a current state~~ to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the status information identifies contents of a clipboard.

Claim 35 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period ~~in which~~ without the physical presence causing the auxiliary control ~~maintains a current state~~ to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the status information identifies at least one of time, date, location, file type and size of most recently saved file.

Claim 36 (currently amended): In a computer system having an auxiliary control and a display screen, a method comprising the steps of:

detecting a physical presence proximate to or contacting the auxiliary control for a predefined period ~~in which without the physical presence causing~~ the auxiliary control maintains ~~a current state~~ to be activated; and

displaying a display widget on the display screen responsive to said step of detecting, the display widget providing status information associated with the auxiliary control, wherein the auxiliary control is a key representing a mathematical operator, and in a spreadsheet application, the status information identifies the result if the mathematical operator is applied to data in a spreadsheet.

Claims 37-47 (canceled)

Claim 48 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the first display widget and the second display widget are different.

Claim 49 (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the first display widget is associated with a first application and the second display widget is associated with a second application different from the first application.

Claim 50 (canceled)